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# REASONS

## Againſt Confirming the Charter

# To the African Company

*By Act of Parliament, Humbly Offered to Conſideration.*

THE Trade as now Managed by the Company to *Guiny*, and from thence back to *England*, and alſo to the *Weſt-Indies*, is a very great Monopoly, whereby there is only one Buyer of the Manufactures, and other Commodities bought here, and one Seller of the Merchandize brought hither; and alſo of the Negroes carried to the *Weſt-Indies*, whereby they Buy and Sell at their own Rates, which has been provided againſt heretofore by many wholſome Laws. And My Lord *Coke* in his Inſtitutes, 3. 85. ſays, *That all Grants of Monopolies are againſt the Ancient and Fundamental Laws of this Kingdom.* And 2. 29. *That they are alſo againſt* Magna Charta, *for that they are againſt the Freedom of the Subject, and the Law of the Land.*

All the Commodities of the *Weſt-Indies*, as Sugar, Indigo, Cotton-Wool, Ginger, Tobacco, &c. are produced by the ſtrength of Negroes, which being brought thither by the *African* Company, only in ſuch ſmall quantities, and ſold at ſuch Rates as they pleaſe, does furniſh ſufficient numbers to carry on the Work of the Plantations, and ſells at ſo Prizes, that the Planters are very much impoveriſhed thereby, and if continued, *Engliſh* Nation (who by a more free and open Trade to *Guiny*, might have the ad- of other Nations in producing the ſaid Commodities) by this means will be ed, and in time beat out of it themſelves.

rt of *Africa* to which the preſent Company would Ingroſs or Monopolize Trade to themſelves, is a vaſt Tract of Land, above Six Thouſand Miles on the Sea-ſhore, beſides a large Inland Country, which would admit Ten Trade and Stock in it, that the Company drives or employs there, and in time might prove the moſt Beneficial and Advantagious Trade out of this

uble hereunto, the Manufactures of this Nation, which the Company ſend thi- *es, Perpetuanoes, Cloth, Welch Plains, Carpets, Boyſados, Bayes, Blankets, ſtin*, &c. would be Exported in abundant larger Quantities, and conſequent- ore Gold, Elephants Teeth, and other the Commodities of *Guiny* brought back , and more Negroes carried to the *Weſt-Indies*, whereby more of the Commodi- ties of thoſe parts would be produced, which pay great Duties to the Crown.

Hereby alſo would the Shipping and Navigation of *England* be much encreaſed.

And whereas it is alledged, That it is neceſſary for the carrying on the ſaid Trade, to have Caſtles, Forts, and Factories in *Africa*; it is anſwered, That if the Trade were wholly open, perhaps there might be no need thereof: yet at preſent ſuch a Regulation only is humbly propoſed, whereby the ſaid Caſtles, &c. may be maintained, and the Trade notwithſtanding enlarged to a very great degree, and the Miſchiefs of a Monopoly prevented.